

In the semi-private and private wards the general profession have the right to attend.

7. The Isolation Hospital. There are three kinds of wards in this hospital, the public at \$3.50, the semi-private at \$7.00, and the private at \$14.00 per week. Every bed in the hospital is at the disposal of the profession, provided the patients pay their way in any of the foregoing wards.

8. The Toronto Western Hospital. This hospital has beds at prices ranging from \$3.50 a week and upwards, as public, semi-private and private wards. Every bed in the hospital is at the disposal of the medical profession, excepting such as are occupied by the city-order cases. These patients are under the control of the staff. There is no rule to prevent a doctor from charging a pay patient in a public ward.

It will be seen from the foregoing, that the Toronto, General, the Emergency, and Children's hospitals give free medical and surgical attendance to all public ward patients. They go further, and forbid a member of their own staffs charging pay public ward patients, even though these might be quite able to pay for such professional services as they receive.

We contend that this is entirely wrong. A hospital should do nothing that would deprive any member of the profession of a fee. No hospital should undertake to furnish free attendance upon patients who can pay. Many well-to-do people will select a public ward because it entitles them to free attendance. If they pay for their hospital accommodation, it should be left an open question as to the attendance they receive and what they may have to pay for it. It is quite a mistake to compel a member of any hospital staff to give his services free to a rich patient, simply because such person prefers a public to a private ward, in order that he may obtain free attendance. This is one of the lingering hospital abuses that must be corrected, but like many another abuse, dies hard. It is most likely to find its remedy through other hospitals, which adopt a wiser policy towards the profession.

It is not many years ago when the private wards were closed against all members of the profession who were not on the staff. Then the private wards were opened to the profession and later on the semi-private. For a doctor, not on the staff, to attend his own patient, that patient must pay \$6.00 a week in the Emergency, \$7.00 per week in the General, \$7.00 per week in St. Michael's, \$8.00 per week in Grace, and \$3.50 in the Western. No privileges are accorded the general profession in the Children's Hospital, and only by courtesy of a member of the staff in St. John's Hospital.